

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 954

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served June 13, 1969

Application of A. B. & W.)
Transit Company for)
Authority to Increase)
Fares.)

Application No. 555

Docket No. 198

In its Application No. 555, filed February 10, 1969, the A. B. & W. Transit Company requested among other things (1) authority to institute an exact fare system similar to the system already used by D. C. Transit System, Inc., and W. V. & M. Coach Company, and (2) authority to institute a commuter ticket program. In Order No. 946, served May 20, 1969, disposing of the matters in Application No. 555, the Commission concluded that additional features of the exact fare system and the commuter ticket program should be considered by the company to provide more convenience to the riding public. Subsequently, in a petition filed May 29, 1969, and in a supplement to that petition filed June 10, 1969, the company outlined a new exact fare plan, and a proposal for the issuance of commuter tickets, that the Commission believes should be implemented.

The purpose of an exact fare system is primarily for the protection of drivers who otherwise might be subject to robbery. A major robbery problem in the District of Columbia, which included beatings and in one case the killing of a driver, was solved through implementation of an exact fare system by D. C. Transit. Similar considerations of security apply in this case. As a secondary benefit, an exact fare system will have the effect of expediting service.

Under the exact fare plan, bus operators will not make change. If a patron does not have the exact fare, the operator will issue a "change receipt" for the difference

between the amount of the fare and the amount of money proffered by the patron, except that operators will not issue change receipts for any bill over \$5.00. Change receipts will be redeemable for one year from date of issue at the following four locations and particular hours:

1. 600 N. Royal Street, Alexandria, Virginia
daily between 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
2. Jefferson Davis Highway and South Glebe Road,
Arlington, Virginia. Monday through Saturday
between 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
3. Pentagon Concourse Information Booth, Arlington,
Virginia. Monday through Friday between 9:30 A.M.
and 5:30 P.M.
4. 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue Information
Booth, Washington, D. C. Monday through Friday
7:00 to 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 to 7:00 P.M.

The company has provided redemption facilities at every location where it has employees, including one in downtown Washington and one at the Pentagon. We believe these locations are sufficiently convenient for the redemption of change receipts.

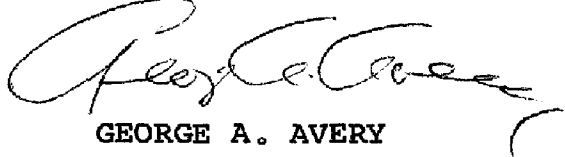
The program for sale of commuter tickets involves the sale of books of ten tickets which may be acquired at the above-mentioned locations and hours and also by mail. The commuter tickets will not be sold at a discount price but are offered as a partial offset to the inconvenience necessarily resulting from an exact fare system. Those who purchase tickets by mail will be expected to provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets will be valid for one year from date of purchase or so long as the current tariff remains in effect, if the tariff is cancelled sooner than one year from date of purchase. If a ticket becomes invalid, it is redeemable at face value for a period of 90 days thereafter.

We believe that the availability of commuter tickets will provide a substantial convenience to A. B. & W. riders, particularly as they may be purchased by mail. The company has promised a program to familiarize the public with the commuter ticket program. The program should prove mutually beneficial to the riders and to the company.

Normally, under Commission regulations, a tariff is not effective until 30 days after it is filed with the Commission. In the case of the exact fare program, substantial physical alterations respecting fare boxes on buses will be required to be accomplished at one time so that all vehicles will be equipped to implement the system at the same time. The company has indicated that the July 4 weekend would provide an ideal opportunity for the accomplishment of that changeover and, if that were done, the implementation of the exact fare system would appropriately take place on July 7, 1969. We agree that the July 4 weekend is well suited for this purpose. There is sufficient time between now and July 7 to publicize the new program to the public so that no undue inconvenience will result. We find that there is an immediate and urgent need for implementation of the new systems. Therefore, we will authorize the implementation of the exact fare system and the commuter ticket program, both as proposed by the company, effective 12:01 A.M., July 7, 1969.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the exact fare system and the commuter ticket program as described in A. B. & W. Application No. 555, as supplemented, is approved effective at or after 12:01 A.M., July 7, 1969, and the company is authorized to file its tariff reflecting the new rules effective at or after that time and date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



GEORGE A. AVERY
Chairman